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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

**** Correspondents are requested to be as brief as possible. The writer's name is in all cases required as proof of good faith.**

On request in advance, one hundred copies of the number containing his communication will be furnished free to any correspondent.

The editor will be glad to publish any queries consonant with the character of the journal.

Bibliographic Work in Vegetable Physiology.

I AM on the point of making a suggestion to students of botany, chemistry, and more specially of physiology. I would be glad to receive notes concerning the literature of *any* question in physiology, in order to use them in my bibliographical work concerning the physiology of plants. Under the head-title of "Contributions from the Missouri Botanical Garden" a series of bibliographical papers will be published, treating of every question within the range of vegetable physiology.

Students of any college in the country could assist me a great deal, if they would inform me of their being willing to pick up occasional notes on this or that question. The bibliographies of *Inuline*, and of the *Tannoids*, both with special reference to the rôle played by these constituents in vegetable physiology, have already been issued. The question taken up at present is that of the *alcoholic fermentation*. Anybody wishing to assist the writer in preparing his bibliography on this subject by sending lists of references — all of which will be welcome — or by looking through a journal or other periodical, thus saving a little time for the writer, without much loss of time for himself, will receive hearty thanks, and will be mentioned as a contributor.

This note being submitted to the attention of *all students* of science as well as professional scientific men, I wish that students of colleges and universities would act upon it. Often students are at a loss as to how to do scientific work and contribute to general knowledge. Here is one of the departments where much work is needed. References might be taken in the following way:

1. Select some chemical, botanical, or physiological journal.

Begin with Vol. I., and go over the whole series carefully, noticing every place where the alcoholic fermentation has in any way been mentioned.

2. Write carefully: (a) Title of the paper, (b) name of the journal (for journals, see Bolton's Catalogue of Scientific and Technical Periodicals, 1665-1882, and his Catalogue of Chemical Periodicals, the first is found in any library, and was published by the Smithsonian Institution; the latter is found in the annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, Vol. III., Nos. 6-7, pp. 161-216, 1885, with supplement, *ibidem*, Vol. IV., pp. 19-22, 1887), (c) volume, page, and year.

3. Examine text-books and handbooks in which the question of the alcoholic fermentation is mentioned.

4. Examine also papers and works which do not bear directly upon this matter; sometimes interesting remarks may be found.

J. CHRISTIAN BAY.

Missouri Bot. Garden, St. Louis, Mo., July 18, 1893

A Plea for Botany in the Small Colleges.

The many pleas made for a better presentation of botany in the larger institutions of the country, have induced me to add a word for botany in the smaller colleges.

The present status of the science in these institutions is indeed discouraging as it is presented in their catalogues. The traditional term of botany given by an instructor in physics or chemistry is the common allowance doled out to the students. The conditions are, however, changing gradually, and chairs of biology are being established in many of the smaller colleges, whose incumbents are occasionally botanists. As a teacher of botany in one of these colleges, the writer wishes to add a plea for the introduction of botany in its proper proportion into the college curriculum.

The character of the work of the college is somewhat different from that of the university in that its courses are necessarily briefer and less specialized. Their students more frequently

Reading Matter Notices.

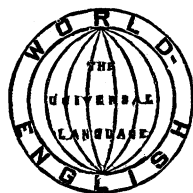
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